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REMARKS

In the Office Action dated June 30, 2005, Examiner imposed a species election requirement on the inventive subject claimed by Applicant in the present Application. In response, Applicant offers the following clarifying remarks and makes his election hereinbelow.

In the Application, a method of ionizing a liquid propellant is disclosed therein along with a showerhead and two species of an electric thruster that generally implement the method. The two species of the electric thruster (genus) are, in particular, an electromagnetic thruster (first species) and an electrostatic thruster (second species).

Presently, there are five groups of claims in the Application. These five groups of claims are generally as follows:

Group 1 (claims 1-18): This group claims method steps that are generally utile for ionizing a liquid propellant.

Group 2 (claims 19-26): This group claims a showerhead that is generally utile for ionizing a liquid propellant according to the method steps in Group 1.

Group 3 (claims 27-31, 34): This group claims an electric thruster (genus) that generally incorporates the showerhead of Group 2 to ionize a liquid propellant for generating propulsion.

Group 4 (claims 32, 35-42): This group claims an electromagnetic thruster that is generally a first species of the electric thruster claimed in Group 3.

Group 5 (claims 33, 43-49): This group claims an electrostatic thruster that is generally a second species of the electric thruster claimed in Group 3.

In general, the inventive subject matter disclosed in Figures 1 and 6 and claimed in claims 32 and 35-42 relate exclusively to the electromagnetic thruster (first species). On the other hand, the inventive subject matter disclosed in Figures 8 and 9 and claimed in claims 33 and 43-49 relate exclusively to the electrostatic thruster (second species). Lastly, the inventive subject matter disclosed in remaining Figures 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, 4, 5A, 5B, and 7 and claimed in remaining claims 1-31 and 34 generally relate to both the electromagnetic thruster (first species) and the electrostatic thruster (second species).

In view of the above, Applicant hereby elects to have all claims that relate to (i.e., read on) the second species electrostatic thruster be considered by Examiner for allowance. These claims particularly include 1-31, 33, 34, and 43-49. In addition, Applicant requests that claims exclusively relating to the first species electromagnetic thruster, namely claims 32 and 35-42, be

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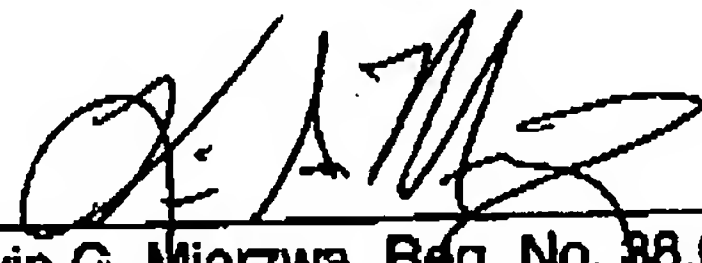
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withdrawn from Examiner's consideration at this time. In sum, therefore, claims 1-31, 33, 34, and 43-49 now remain pending in the present application for Examiner's consideration.

Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at (248) 223-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

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